



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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A special "THANK YOU" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing surveys via mail, telephone or personal interviews. This issue contains the results of monthly and quarterly surveys including the annual Potato Objective Yield Survey and the monthly Potato Price Survey.

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TEN-YEAR HISTORY OF AG STATISTICS: The eighth annual issue of *New England Agricultural Statistics* has been on the Internet since March but the paperback bulletin will soon be back from the printer. It contains ten years of crops, livestock, economic and other agriculture related statistics for all six New England states. There will be a limited supply of this 170-page publication. If you operate a farm and live in New England, please contact your state agricultural commissioner for a copy.

POTATOES: Maine's 1999 potato production is estimated at 17.8 million cwt. (hundredweight), 1 percent under 1998 output. The December 1 production forecast placed acres harvested at 62,500 acres, compared with 64,500 harvested the previous year. The crop was planted from 1 - 2 weeks early, and warm, dry weather with occasional showers during the summer produced above average yields at many locations. As harvest was gaining momentum in mid-September however, a prolonged stretch of rainy weather settled in. Potato harvest was slowed to a crawl as farmers were forced to wait for fields to dry out before they could enter with heavy equipment. An estimated 2,500 acres were abandoned due to wet conditions at harvest. Potato yields averaged 285 cwt. per acre statewide in 1999, compared with 280 cwt. per acre in 1998, and the previous 5-year average of 256 cwt. per acre.

Potato farmers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island also took advantage of ideal spring planting conditions, and had the crop seeded from 1 to 2 weeks early. Dry conditions continued throughout the summer, and non-irrigated fields sustained excessive damage. Growers reported a high quality, high yielding crop on irrigated acreage. September rains arrived when harvest was at the halfway mark, providing needed rainfall, however too late to improve conditions in most fields. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,900 acres, unchanged from the previous year, with yields averaging 255 cwt per acre. Rhode Island farmers harvested 600 acres, with average yields of 225 cwt per acre.

POTATO STOCKS: Maine potato stocks on hand December 1, 1999 totaled 14.5 million cwt., 3 percent above 1998's December

1 holdings. Disappearance to December 1 in the state totaled 3.3 million cwt., compared with 4.0 million cwt. a year earlier. Storage accounted for 81 percent of Maine's total production, compared with the previous 5-year average of 79 percent. Of the stocks on hand December 1 in Maine, 50 percent were round white varieties, 10 percent were long whites, 37 percent were russets, and 3 percent were red varieties.

The 15 major potato States held 275 million cwt. of potatoes on December 1, 1999, down 2 percent from last year and 1 percent below 1997. Storage accounted for 65 percent of 1999 fall production, 1 percentage point below last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 12 percent round white, 5 percent long white (Shepody), and 81 percent russet. There were fewer russets, and more long whites in storage than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 states from the start of harvest to December 1, at 146 million cwt of potatoes, was up 2 percent from the same period last year, and 8 percent more than two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 17.2 million cwt so far this year, was down 13 percent from losses in 1998, but up 12 percent from 2 years ago.

Processors used 74.6 million cwt of the 1999 crop so far this season. This is up 1 percent from a year ago and 9 percent above two years ago.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in Vermont totaled 215 million pounds for November 1999, unchanged from a year earlier. The daily production per cow averaged 45 pounds in November, up slightly from November 1998. Milk cows on Vermont farms during the month totaled 160,000, down 1,000 head from the same time last year.

This is a monthly summary of New England agricultural statistics taken from nationwide reports issued by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service over the past few weeks. All national reports and state-level newsletters are available on the Internet.

National Reports can be ordered by calling 1-800-999-6779.

How can you get these reports electronically?

* All national reports and state newsletters are available on the Internet.

* For free national e-mail reports, send a message to:

usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu and in the body, type: **lists**

* For free state newsletters, such as this, send a message to:

nass-state-releases@news.usda.gov and in the body, type: **subscribe new-eng-all-reports** OR **lists** for other states.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield and Production, 1998 - 1999

STATE	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	65.5	65.0	64.5	62.5	280	285	18,060	17,813
Massachusetts	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	235	255	682	740
Rhode Island	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	210	225	147	135
U.S. Fall Crop	1,235.1	1,203.0	1,214.0	1,166.1	356	368	432,737	429,451

SOURCE: **Potato Stocks**, 3:00 pm, December 15, 1999, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**FALL POTATOES: Production and December 1 Stocks ^{1/}, 1998 - 1999**

STATE	1998 Crop			1999 Crop		
	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 1998	Stocks as % of Prod	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 1999	Stocks as % of Prod
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	3,708	2,800	76	4,005	3,200	80
Colorado	25,360	19,000	75	25,762	19,500	76
Idaho	138,000	99,500	72	133,330	96,000	72
Maine	18,060	14,100	78	17,813	14,500	81
Michigan	14,648	9,100	62	14,963	8,800	59
Minnesota	21,170	13,500	64	18,020	10,000	55
Montana	3,180	3,050	96	3,325	3,220	97
Nebraska	8,175	4,700	57	8,904	5,300	60
New York	7,290	3,400	47	6,758	3,700	55
North Dakota	28,670	20,500	72	26,400	16,500	63
Ohio	1,200	260	22	987	250	25
Oregon	26,229	20,000	76	28,020	22,800	81
Pennsylvania	3,360	2,000	60	3,080	1,600	52
Washington	93,225	49,000	53	95,200	48,000	50
Wisconsin	30,895	20,000	65	34,000	21,500	63
15 STATES	423,170	280,910	66	420,567	274,870	65

^{1/} Reliability of the stocks estimate is 2.6 percent. This means chances are 2 out of 3 the current estimate will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 the difference will not exceed 4.4 percent.SOURCE: **Potato Stocks**, 3:00 pm, December 15, 1999, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1994 - 1999 Crop Years**

CROP YEAR	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for All Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average										
	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt										
1994	5.65	4.85	5.25	5.70	6.00	6.20	6.25	6.60	6.70	6.15	6.10
1995	5.55	5.25	5.85	6.25	6.25	6.30	6.30	6.60	6.85	7.05	6.40
1996	5.20	4.70	4.90	4.35	4.35	4.65	4.50	4.75	5.05	4.55	4.60
1997	8.10	5.65	5.70	6.10	6.30	6.10	6.35	6.55	6.95	6.75	6.40
1998	6.25	5.40	5.70	5.85	5.90	6.15	6.45	6.90	7.45	7.05	6.45
1999 ^{2/}	5.90	5.30	5.50	5.80							

^{1/} Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed and feed ^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 pm, November 30, 1999, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, November 1999 with comparisons

STATE	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	November 1998	October 1999	November 1999	November 1998	October 1999	November 1999	November 1998	October 1999	November 1999
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	161	160	160	1,335	1,380	1,345	215	221	215
New York	702	700	700	1,320	1,400	1,360	927	980	952
Pennsylvania	620	617	618	1,380	1,450	1,420	856	895	878
U.S. ^{2/}	7,697	7,748	7,755	1,407	1,493	1,458	10,829	11,569	11,306

^{1/} Average number for the month, including dry cows^{2/} U.S. includes only 20 major states: AZ CA FL ID IL IN IA KY MI MN MO NM NY OH PA TX VT VA WA WI.SOURCE: **Milk Production**, 3:00 pm, December 15, 1999, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**MONTHLY MILK: Average Price Received and Fat Test, November 1999 with comparisons**

STATE	All Milk Price ^{1/}			Fat Test		
	November 1998	October 1999	November 1999 ^{2/}	November 1998	October 1999	November 1999 ^{2/}
	Dollars Per Cwt			Percent		
Connecticut	17.90	16.40	16.40	3.76	3.70	3.77
Maine	17.60	16.10	16.10	3.82	3.75	3.80
Massachusetts	18.10	16.60	16.60	3.82	3.70	3.78
New Hampshire	18.10	16.50	16.50	3.87	3.79	3.85
Rhode Island	18.00	16.40	16.40	3.78	3.62	3.72
Vermont	17.70	16.20	16.30	3.80	3.73	3.80
NEW ENGLAND	17.77	16.27	16.33	3.81	3.73	3.80
U.S. ^{3/}	17.80	15.00	16.40	3.78	3.74	3.81

^{1/} Before deductions for hauling and government withholding. Includes bulk-tanks, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. ^{2/} Most recent monthly price and butterfat test are preliminary mid-month forecasts.^{3/} U.S. includes only 35 major states: AL AZ AR CA CO FL GA ID IL IN IA KS KY LA MD MI MN MS MO NE NM NY NC ND OH OK OR PA TN TX UT VT VA WA WI.SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 pm, November 30, 1999, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, October 1999 with comparisons**

PRODUCT	October 1998	September 1999	October 1999	October 1999 as percent of:	
				October 1998	September 1999
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	5,127	2,901	2,919	57	101
American Cheese ^{1/}	5,129	3,744	4,445	87	119
Mozzarella Cheese	3,511	4,214	4,589	131	109
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	575	1,765	575	100	33
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	599	562	558	93	99
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	5,147	6,084	4,575	89	75
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	358	431	418	117	97
Milk Sherbet, Hard	183	248	213	116	86

^{1/} American Type Cheese includes cheddars, Colby, washed curd, stirred curd, Monterey and Jack.^{2/} Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella. ^{3/} Creamed and lowfatSOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: **Dairy Products**, 3:00 pm, December 3, 1999, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, October, 1998 - 1999

STATE	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ^{1/}		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ^{1/}		Egg Production from All Layers ^{1/}	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,812	2,911	2,972	3,082	2,389	2,336	71	72
Maine	4,779	4,490	4,900	4,623	2,449	2,379	120	110
U.S.	251,916	260,902	314,847	325,069	2,157	2,192	6,791	7,126

^{1/}Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

SOURCE: *Chickens & Eggs*, 3:00 pm, November 23, 1999, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Hatchery Production, October, 1998 - 1999

REGION	Broiler-Type Chicks				Egg-Type Chicks			
	Hatched during Oct		Hatched Jan - Oct		Hatched during Oct		Hatched Jan - Oct	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Birds							
NEW ENGLAND	788	560	8,546	6,290	639	669	7,461	7,328
U.S.	693,189	697,787	7,079,250	7,286,465	34,649	38,559	371,409	382,950

SOURCE: *Chickens & Eggs*, 3:00 pm, November 23, 1999, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

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***Our Entire Staff
Wishes You a
Happy and Prosperous
New Year***

